

RESOLUTION #2020-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL ENDORSING THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT

WHEREAS, the Summit County Council passed a resolution on June 21, 2017, acknowledging that the transition away from fossil fuels can be accelerated through a market-driven mechanism, such as a carbon fee and dividend that would encourage and empower residents to reduce and replace their consumption of fossil fuels with renewable and other alternative energy sources through conservation, being more efficient, and choosing less carbon-intensive energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the Summit County resolution further encouraged the United States Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production and importation sufficient to encourage individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels and to make the transition less onerous on the economy and to consumers by returning to American households all the revenues generated from this fee; and

WHEREAS, global climate change continues to deeply affect the Summit County community through changes in weather patterns including droughts, volatile snow events, and warmer temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the State of Utah is seeing record wildfires, droughts, intense storms, heat waves, inversions, and extreme weather events that are having negative impacts on the state economy; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists have issued dire warnings that systemic change must happen to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in October 2018, an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impacts of global warming, warning that our planet is likely to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate report that we have only 12 years left to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment in November 2018 reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country, and that more frequent and intense extreme weather and climate-related events, as well as changes in average climate conditions, are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities; and